

Message Text

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SUBJECT: VISIT OF WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS

REF: STATE 120792; CAIRO 6703

SUMMARY: BRIEF CAIRO VISIT OF WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS
JULY 27-29 SUCCESSFUL. PROGRAM INCLUDED BRIEFING BY
CHARGE, MEETINGS AND LUNCH AT AL-AHRAM AND MEETING WITH
PRIMIN MAMDOUH SALEM, ATTENDED BY SEVEN CABINET
MEMBERS. PRIMIN'S GRACIOUS RECEPTION CLEARLY A
DEMONSTRATION OF GOE GOOD WILL. PRESS COVERAGE EXCELLENT.
END SUMMARY.

1. WHITE HOUSE FELLOWS ARRIVED ON SCHEDULE AFTERNOON
JULY 27 AND ACCOMPLISHED SIGHTSEEING THAT EVENING.
MORNING JULY 28 THEY WERE BRIEFED AT EMBASSY BY CHARGE
AND AID DIRECTOR.

2. ACCOMPANIED BY PAO, THEY WERE THEN RECEIVED BY
BOARD CHAIRMAN OF AL-AHRAM IHSAN ABDEL QUDDUS, WHO
WELCOMED THEM, EXPRESSED HIS PLEASURE AT IMPOROEMENTS
IN US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS IN RECENT MONTHS AND RESPONDED
TO QUESTIONS. MOST QUESTIONS HAD TO DO WITHOPERATION
OF PRESS IN EGYPT AND ITS RELATIONSHIP TO GOVERNMENT.
THE CHAIRMAN WAS MOST FORTHCOMING AND FRANK.

3. FOLLOWING BRIEF TOUR AT AL-AHRAM PLANT, GROUP
PARTICIPATED IN ROUND-TABLE DISCUSSION CHAIRED BY
ROTROS GHALI, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF OF SIYASSA DAWLIA AND
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HEAD OF CAIRO UNIVESITY'S POLITICAL SCIENCE

DEPARTMENT. OTHER PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED MANAGING EDITOR, FOREIGN AFFAIRS EDITOR AND LITERATURE EDITOR OF AL-AHRAM; EDITOR OF AL-TALIAA AND DIRECTOR OF AL-AHRAM'S INSTITUTE OF STRATEGIC STUDIES. DISCUSSION CENTERED ON MIDDLE EAST SITUATION AND GROUP RECEIVED FULL EXPOSURE TO EGYPTIAN VIEWPOINT. ATMOSPHERE WAS RELAXED AND A VERY INTERESTING DIALOGUE OCCURRED WHICH WAS CONTINUED THROUGH LUNCH.

4. CHARGE AND PAO ACCOMPANIED FELLOWS TO OFFICE OF PRIMIN AT 7:00 PM FOR WHAT INITIALLY WAS TO HAVE BEEN A MEETING ONLY. THAT MORNING CHARGE WAS INFORMED THAT TEA WOULD ALSO BE SERVED. THE SURPRISE CAME WHEN THE PRIMIN APPEARED FOLLOWED BY TWO DEPUTY PRIMINS, GENERAL GAMASSY (MINWAY) AND GHANEM (MINHIGHER EDUCATION), AND MINISTERS OF STATE (PRIMIN'S OFFICE), EDUCATION, CULTURE, PETROLEUM AND ELECTRIC POWER. THERE FOLLOWED A VERY ELABORATE TEA DURING WHICH THE VARIOUS MINISTERS SAT AT DIFFERENT TABLES WITH THE FELLOWS.

5. AFTERWARDS THE ROUND-TABLE MEETING BEGAN WITH PRIMIN MAKING A STATEMENT IN WHICH HE EMPHASIZED THE DEVELOPMENTS WHICH HAVE OCCURRED IN US-EGYPTIAN RELATIONS AND WHAT HE REFERRED TO AS "THE NEW AGE OF COOPERATION." HE POINTED OUT THAT EGYPT AND THE US HAVE MANY MUTUAL INTERESTS AND STRESSED THE NEED TO SOLIDIFY OUR BILATERAL RELATIONS. HE REVIEWED THE ECONOMIC SITUATION, DESCRIBING FRANKLY THE PROBLEM IN THIS SECTOR BROUGHT ABOUT BY BURDENS OF WAR, INCLUDING THE PRESENT LIQUIDITY CRISIS. SALEM EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR ASSISTANCE WHICH WAS BEING PROVIDED BY ARAB COUNTRIES AND BY US TOGETHER WITH WEST EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE DESCRIBED THIS SITUATION AS TEMPORARY AND BELIEVED EGYPT WOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THESE OBSTACLES. FELLOWS THEN ASKED QUESTIONS ON DOMESTIC AS WELL AS MIDDLE EAST SUBJECTS TO WHICH PRIMIN OR APPROPRIATE MINISTER RESPONDED AT SOME LENGTH. AT CONCLUSION, EACH FELLOW WAS PRESENTED A PACKAGE FROM THE PRIMIN CONTAINING TWO VERY HANDSOME BOOKS ON EGYPT AND SEVERAL MINISTRY OF INFORMATION PAMPHLETS ABOUT UNCLASSIFIED

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THE COUNTRY.

6. THE PRSS REPORTED THE ARRIVAL OF THE GROUP ON JULY 28 AND MOST NEWSPAPERS CARRIED STORIES AND FRONT PAGE PHOTOS ON THEIR MEETING WITH THE PRIMIN JULY 29.

7. GIVEN THE ABSENCE OF PRESIDENT SADAT AND DEPUTY PRIMIN/FONMIN FAHMY, THIS CONSTITUTED

THE HIGHEST LEVEL RECEPTION THAT COULD BE AFFORDED VISITORS BY THE GOE AND GRACIOUS MANNER IN WHICH IT WAS DONE CLEARLY INDICATED THAT IT WAS DESIGNED AS A GESTURE OF GOOD WILL TOWARDS US AND, SPECIFICALLY, THE WHITE HOUSE.

8. FELLOWS ACQUITTED THEMSELVES EXTREMELY WELL, WERE FOUND MOST INTERESTING BY THEIR VARIOUS HOSTS AND INDICATED THAT THEY WERE VERY PLEASED WITH THEIR PROGRAM AND IMPRESSED BY THE RECEPTION THEY RECEIVED HERE.
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